



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update** **January 2006**

*The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of 36 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is an executive summary of HCDOP activities for January 2006.*

### **Scientific Studies**

- Jan Newton (UW) and Dan Hannafious(HCSEG), co-managers of the Integrated Assessment and Modeling (IAM) program, held a Science Workshop on January 20. Forty-three scientists and observers attended. Goals of the workshop were to identify:
  1. Results and implications from Year 1 work
  2. Questions and information gaps
  3. Priority actions for Year 2Notes from the workshop are posted on <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu>.
- The fourth Quarterly Meeting of the HCDOP IAM Study was held on January 31. Minutes of the meeting are posted at <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu> and summarize the key updates of the IAM Study.
- Gary Turney (USGS) chaired a follow-up meeting of the Onsite Sewage Subcommittee, which led to the development of a one page project outline and proposed budget for new nitrogen transport and fate studies. Dave Christensen (HCCC) presented it to the Select Committee on Hood Canal on January 26. Rep. Maralyn Chase has offered a bill, HB 3287, which will provide funding for the proposed work. The bill was heard on February 2.
- Mason County Department of Health Services (MCDHS) is now sampling ten locations, including Hamma Hamma, for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform bacteria levels. They are now eleven months into the freshwater monitoring component. (Book, MCDHS)

### **Corrective Actions**

#### *Human Sewage*

- Landowners in Paradise Bay Community have pledged more than \$15,000 to hire an engineering firm for cost feasibility/preliminary engineering design. HCCC will be assisting with interviews with engineering consultants in February. (Christensen, HCCC)
- Based on the interest level of landowners and their geographic distribution along Landon and the Northshore Road, HCCC may pursue three cluster systems of 10-12 connections instead of one system of 30-40 connections. (Christensen, HCCC)

- PSAT funded demonstration projects: Construction of the Five Star cluster project is complete; a B-Line recirculating gravel filter system was installed at the Hungry Bear Restaurant on US 101 in north Mason County. One additional filter system is needed to complete all of the onsite sewage system demonstration projects. (Hull, PSAT).
- State interagency team partners met to discuss status of funded projects, with follow-up meetings with Emmett Dobey, Community Development Director of Mason County on progress made on Hoodsport to Skokomish River and Belfair and North Shore sewerage projects, in light of the departure of key county staff, Doug Micheau. (Fagergren and Glasoe, PSAT)
- State interagency team partners met with Mason County contractors, O'Neil and Associates (Art O'Neil, Mike Sharar, and Linda Hoffman) to brief them on the status of sewerage and onsite programs in the county, and next steps to get the projects back on track. (Fagergren and Glasoe, PSAT)
- Mason County's Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project (HCPIC) is underway. The HCPIC team has been writing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), assessing nutrient sampling, continuing parcel identification along the Hood Canal, and entering data collected into the database. They are working to ensure that their sample results will be comparable with the Kitsap County data. (Book, MCDHS)

#### **Public education and outreach updates**

- *Outreach*
  - HCCC staff presented an overview of Hood Canal activities at the Seabeck Community Association quarterly meeting on January 17. (Christensen, HCCC)
  - Jan Newton (UW), Terry Hull (PSAT), and Tony Paulson (USGS) gave a presentation on Hood Canal to A university of Washington Class on Civil Engineering Lake & Watershed Management.
  - On February 4, Jan Newton gave a public lecture in Highline Community College's "Science on the Sound" speakers series entitled "Hood Canal and Puget Sound: Oceanography, Human Development and Hypoxia."
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
  - Debbie Riley (Mason County) will present information on the Shellfish Protection District in a public Mason County Commissioners meeting on February 14 at 9:30 am in the Commissioners' chambers in Shelton. This public meeting will cover drafting a resolution to set the Shellfish Protection district boundaries for the Annas Bay area.
  - The next HCCC Board meeting is on February 15 from 1:30-4:30 at the Oyster Bay Restaurant in Bremerton. Directions can be found on our website at: [http://www.hccc.wa.gov/Downloads/Downloads\\_GetFile.aspx?id=127651&fd=0](http://www.hccc.wa.gov/Downloads/Downloads_GetFile.aspx?id=127651&fd=0)
  - The next HCWEN meeting is set for March 30, 2006 at the Kitsap SSWM Stormwater Annex Conference Room from 1-4pm. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - Duane Fagergren (PSAT), Dan Hannafious (HCSEG) and Jan Newton (UW) have been asked to contribute to the UW Oceanography's class "Puget Sound Ecosystem" on March 7.

### **Funding**

- *Funding now available*
  - Congressman Norm Dicks has confirmed that \$1.8 million has been secured for the HCDOP IAM Year 2 activity.
- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
  - HCCC anticipates leading another submission for the EPA Targeted Watersheds proposal. Based on the timing last year, we anticipate that it will be due around the first of May. This is both a funding opportunity and a funding need, as there will need to be a 25% match from state and local sources.

### **Legislative or Congressional action or briefings**

- *Hood Canal Related Bills – status 02/06/06 (Hull, PSAT)*

**ESHB 1883** Directs Evergreen State College to collect oral histories for Hood Canal. Passed the House and is now before the Gov Ops committee of the Senate. (This bill was introduced last session.).

**SHB 3039** Sets deadlines and requires Ecology permitted dischargers to provide nitrogen removal; sets separate deadlines, but requires both new and existing onsite sewage systems to address nitrogen removal. Currently is in House Rules Committee awaiting a second reading.

**HB 3142** Provides sales and use tax exemptions for equipment, materials, and labor associated with construction of onsite sewage systems within Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone 1 (Hood Canal watershed). Currently is in House Finance Committee, which has until tomorrow to move this bill.

**SHB 3199** Requires the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a pilot project to study the feasibility of planting geoducks on state aquatic lands. Currently in House Appropriations, which has until tomorrow to move this bill.

**SHB 3282** Establishes a separate fund for Hood Canal protection and restoration. No dedicated funding source was provided in the substitute. The bill was passed out of House Appropriations today and is awaiting scheduling for floor action.

**SHB 3287** Provides for the study of nitrogen fate and transport from onsite sewage systems to the marine waters of Hood Canal. The bill provided \$600,000 in funding, but this amount was apparently removed by the House Appropriations Committee as it moved the bill on February 4. It awaits scheduling for floor action.

### **Communications**

- *Communications activities*
  - Anne Criss, Toni Droscher, Duane Fagergren, Linda Farmer, and Mary Knackstedt (PSAT), Dave Christensen (HCCC) and Emily Piper (WSU/HCWEN)

- met on January 23 to develop a scope and timeframe for the Hood Canal electronic newsletter.
- Emily Piper is contacting potential groups to subscribe to the Hood Canal Newsletter and is working on article ideas. We hope to have the first issue out by mid-late February. For more information or article suggestions please contact Toni Droscher [tdroscher@psat.wa.gov](mailto:tdroscher@psat.wa.gov) or Emily Piper [elpiper@wsu.edu](mailto:elpiper@wsu.edu).

- *Media coverage*

**Lawmakers Target Septic Systems**

The Kitsap Sun

Christopher Dunagan

January 30, 2006

[http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_4426389,00.html](http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4426389,00.html)

**Geoduck bill puts divers on equal footing**

The Olympian (editorial)

January 30, 2006

<http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060131/OPINION01/60131024/1005>